Guide to a Litter-Free Butler County



Information on Littering and What You Can Do to Help Stop It

Butler County
Department of
Recycling &
Waste Management

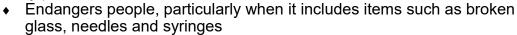
PO Box 1208 124 W. Diamond St. Butler, PA 16003

Phone: 724.284.5305 Fax: 724.284.5315 Email:

skelly@co.butler.pa.us

Litter is YOUR Problem Because It:

- Reduces the appeal of public places, including streets, parks and waterways—and is a factor when businesses choose their site locations
- Kills aquatic life in our waterways, blocks drainage systems and causes flooding
- Reduces property values and community pride



- Is a crime that attracts more crime
- Is a fire hazard
- Costs communities huge sums of money to clean up and uses YOUR tax dollars



People Litter For One Of Three Reasons:

- they feel no sense of ownership, even though areas such as parks and beaches are public property
- they believe someone else will pick up after them
- litter has already accumulated

What Can You Do?

- Set an example for others, especially children, by not littering.
- Carry a litter bag in your car.
- Make sure trash cans have lids that can be securely fastened.
- Tie papers in a bundle before placing them in a curbside recycling bin.
- If you own a business, check dumpsters daily to see that top and side doors are closed.
- If you or a member of your family is involved in a civic group, scouting, or recreational sports program, encourage the group to "adopt" a spot in your community and maintain it on a regular basis.
- Make litter bags for your bicycle, and give them to your friends, too.
- Report areas where people have illegally dumped garbage and debris to your local highway, municipal, or conservation office and ask that the trash be removed.
- Volunteer to help organize a cleanup.

Resources:

Keep America Beautiful—www.kab.org

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful—

April 2019



www.keeppabeautiful.org



Tri-County CleanWays (A local affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful operating in Lawrence, Butler and Mercer Counties) - 724.658.6925



PennDOT (can provide roadside cleanup supplies and operates an Adopt-A-Highway program for state-owned roads—Butler Office-

724.284.8800

Specific Community Information—some municipalities in Butler County operate their own adopt-a-road cleanup program for municipally-owned streets and roads. To get more information, call your local municipal office to see if they operate one of these programs.



Allegheny Aquatic Alliance—A local nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring the waters of Western Pennsylvania to their natural state by removing and combating pollution, reinstating the organic environment, and educating the community of the threats to our waterways in order to empower and encourage public action for watershed preservation. They operate a cleanup of Connoquenessing Creek each year.

www.alleghenyaquaticalliance.org 724.371.0416



ALLEGHENY

Cleanup Organizing Tips:

Consider organizing a litter cleanup in your neighborhood, near your business or as close to your neighborhood or Cleanups can be of any cize. Following those guidelines and getting current from your municipality will incure

that your group will have a half-day of fun and rewarding work that will benefit the community and the natural environment. Plan Ahead:

1. Find a littered area you would like to clean up. Assess safety of site. If needed, obtain permission from private landowners. 2. Set meeting time, date, and location. Plan a rain date. 3. Recruit a core group of friends to volunteer, and then use posters and word-ofmouth to bring in more people. 4. Register your cleanup with your town or city by going to your local government and making sure they know what you are doing and when - and coordinate with local law enforcement. 5. Make sure whatever company collects trash in your community is available to haul away whatever you pick up so you'll need to coordinate that as well. 6. Purchase inexpensive trash bags and latex/latex-free gloves—or they might be provided for free by calling PennDOT or your municipality. Day of Cleanup:

1. Bring water, snacks, a phone, sunscreen, shirts, bags, grabbers, safety checklist, and a first aid kit. 2. Welcome and thank volunteers and orient them to the area to be cleaned. Using a sign-in/liability waiver sheet enhances safety awareness. 3. Review the safety checklist with your volunteers. 4. Do your cleanup. If you bag recyclables separately (a nice thing to do!), put them out with your regular curbside pickup. 5. Gather for a snack and sharing of discoveries. 6. Take a group photo for your website and newsletters!





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